


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and/ or claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,	
on <u>1-30-03</u>	
 Attorney for Applicant(s)	<u>1-30-03</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The following is a marked-up version of the amended specification paragraphs containing the newly introduced changes, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the specification of Application Serial No. 09/727,905. Deleted matter is denoted by bracketed type. Added matter is denoted by underlined type.

**Please add the following new claims:**

17. (New) A method of transporting information in a telecommunications network having a plurality of network elements, the method comprising:  
transporting network management information using a virtual tunnel, wherein said virtual tunnel comprises,  
a first network element configured to relocate said network management information from a first set of byte locations of a first frame to a second set of byte locations of a second frame.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information using said virtual tunnel,  
wherein said virtual tunnel further comprises,  
a second network element configured to receive said second frame.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information using said virtual tunnel,  
wherein said second network element comprises,  
a second network element configured to relocate said network management information from said second set of byte locations of said second frame to said first set of byte locations of a third frame.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:  
configuring said virtual tunnel between a source network element and a  
destination network element, wherein  
said transporting comprises,  
transporting said network management information between said  
source network element and said destination network  
element using said virtual tunnel in response to said  
configuring.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information from said source network  
element to said destination network element using said virtual tunnel in  
response to said configuring, wherein said first network element  
comprises,  
a first network element configured to receive said first frame from said  
source network element.
22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information from said source network  
element to said destination network element using said virtual tunnel in  
response to said configuring, wherein said second network element  
comprises,  
a second network element configured to transport said third frame to said  
destination network element.
23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information using said virtual tunnel,  
wherein said first frame and said second frame comprise one or more  
synchronous optical network (SONET) frames.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information using said virtual tunnel,  
wherein said first set of byte locations comprise a section overhead portion  
of said one or more SONET frames.
25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said transporting comprises:  
transporting said network management information using said virtual tunnel,  
wherein said second set of byte locations comprise a line overhead portion  
of said one or more SONET frames.
26. (New) An apparatus comprising:  
means for transporting network management information using a virtual tunnel,  
wherein said virtual tunnel comprises,  
a first network element configured to relocate said network management  
information from a first set of byte locations of a first frame to a  
second set of byte locations of a second frame.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said virtual tunnel further comprises a  
second network element configured to receive said second frame.
28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said second network element  
comprises a second network element configured to relocate said network management  
information from said second set of byte locations of said second frame to said first set of  
byte locations of a third frame.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:  
means for configuring said virtual tunnel between a source network element and a  
destination network element.

30. (New) An apparatus for transporting network management information in a telecommunications network having a plurality of network elements, comprising:
- a first network element comprising:
    - a first line interface to receive a first frame including said network management information; and
    - a cross-connect to relocate said network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to a second set of byte locations of a second frame.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30 further comprising:
- a second network element comprising:
    - a first line interface to receive said second frame; and
    - a cross-connect to relocate said network management information from said second set of byte locations of said second frame to said first set of byte locations of a third frame.